

Toledo Museum of Art

1904



The Russian
Wedding Feast

November 23 - December 2, 1907



Toledo Museum *of* Art

The Schumann Collection of European Masterpieces

INCLUDING



The RUSSIAN WEDDING FEAST

BY

KONSTANTIN MAKOVSKI

The Story of the Russian Wedding Feast

Before the time of Peter the Great, when the old Boyar families of Russia were at the zenith of power and wealth, they often surpassed the emperors in the display of wealth which they made at their wedding feasts. Antique chests were called upon to contribute their contents of precious jewels, plates, silver and golden goblets, and chalices of unique shape, to testify the renown of the house, to prove its hospitality, and to ornament and beautify the happy day of family history.

Betrothals in Russia, in the times of the Boyars, which the painting represents, were frequently made by the parents for their children while still quite young. Their daughters, during their education, lived in strictest retirement, unacquainted with society, associating only with their parents and attendants—a custom partly observed to this day in France. When the wedding day approached the bride received a guardian, or Lady of Ceremony—an elderly relative—who was the intimate adviser of the young bride, and took great pains that the ancient traditional rules should be strictly observed. The Rites of the Church and some other very singular traditional customs before, during, and after the Divine service, must be omitted in this brief description. The artist has selected and charmingly represents the first appearance of the newly-married pair in society.

The young husband and wife have entered the room and stand at the head of the table. With admiration and tenderest love, he now for the first time beholds her unveiled. Sympathizing with her embarrassment, he gently gazes into the blushing face of the maid who is to be his life's companion; while she, with drooping eyes, cannot look up to him. The company around the table greet them, and wait with filled cups to drink to their happiness, when the young husband shall have given his wife the husband-kiss. The timid bride, sensitive at being the subject of curiosity, conscious that every eye rests on her, a picture of innocence and bashfulness hesitates, the men urging, while the women, pleased with her modesty, encourage her with loving words. Even her guardian tenderly ushers her onward, pleading earnestly in favor of the old custom. At the lower end of the table a little group are merrily enjoying the joke of the silken slipper of the bride, of which they have obtained possession and hidden away.

The Schumann Collection of European Masterpieces

- 1 The Russian Wedding Feast.....*Makovski*
- 2 La Belle Russe.....*Makovski*

KONSTANTIN MAKOVSKI.—The painter of the Russian Wedding Feast, one of the most famous and best known paintings of modern times, was born in Moscow, Russia, in 1839. In 1869 he exhibited his painting entitled "Carnival in St. Petersburg," which was purchased by the Emperor, for his private collection. After traveling in the East, he painted in 1876, "The Transport of the Holy Carpet from Mecca to Cairo," which was also placed in the Emperor's collection. This painting was taken to Paris for the Exposition of 1878. His "Water Nymphs" is hung in the famous gallery at St. Petersburg.

The painting, "The Russian Wedding Feast," is known by name in almost every household in the United States. Two other modern pictures are perhaps as widely known, "The Angelus" by Millet and "The Horse Fair" by Rosa Bonheur. The painting is valued at two hundred thousand dollars.

- 3 Voyage of Columbus, The Storm... *Aivazovski*
- 4 Voyage of Columbus, Arriving at San Salvador. *Aivazovski*
- 5 Voyage of Columbus, Departure from Palos. *Aivazovski*
- 6 Venice. *Aivazovski*
- 7 Bay of Naples. *Aivazovski*

IVAN CONSTANTINOVICH AIVASOVSKI.—A Russian painter born at Fedosia, Crimea. In 1837, he exhibited six pictures which attracted the attention of the Emperor who made him a present of money which enabled him to travel in Crimea and Mingrelia. In 1840 he went to Italy, where he painted in Naples, his most successful pictures. He was made a member of the St. Petersburg Academy and executed for the Emperor's private collection, several views of the Gulf of Finland. In 1856 he painted in Paris and was decorated with the "Legion of Honor."

In the Hermitage Gallery at St. Petersburg will be found "Sunrise on the Black Sea"—"The Creation"—"The Deluge"—and many others. He is also represented in Moscow Museum. The five canvases shown in this exhibition are among his most important works.

- 8 The Friar's Dinner. *Baumgartner*
- 9 Papa Joins The Dance. *Baumgartner*
- 10 Invitation To Dance. *Baumgartner*

PETER BAUMGARTNER.—A painter of humorous and characteristic pictures of Belgian life. He was born at Munich in 1838 and was a pupil in 1850 at the Munich Academy. Among his best known pictures are "Seven Suabians," "Don Quixote's Declaration of Love," "Interrupted Dinner" and "On the Way to School."

11 Bavarian Tyrol.....*Zimmerman*

ALBERT ZIMMERMAN.—His landscapes to a certain degree ideal, show a grand conception of mountain scenery, masterly execution and powerful light effects. He was born at Zittau, Saxony, in 1808, and became professor of the Milan Academy in 1827 and at the Vienna Academy in 1859 and was also a member of the Munich and St. Petersburg Academies.

Among his most famous pictures are the following: "Spring Landscape with Sheep" in the Dresden Gallery. "Landscape with Waterfall" in the Munich Gallery. "Bavarian Highlands" Stadel Gallery, Frankfort. "View on Ammer Lake" Hanover Gallery. His "Lake Como" became part of the famous Stuart collection in New York.

12 Monastery at Brioux.....*Riefstahl*

WILHELM LUDWIG, FREDERICK RIEFSTAHL.—A German painter born at Neu-Strellitz in 1827. Two of his most important paintings are "Mountain Chapel with Herdsmen at Devotion" and "All Souls at Eregenz," which may be found at the National Gallery at Berlin. At the Paris Exposition of 1878, he was represented by two large canvasses, "The Pantheon of Agrippa at Rome," and "Attendant Le Cercueil." He was the Director of the Art School at Karlsruhe and member of the Berlin Academy at which place he made in 1848 the designs for illustrating Kugler's History of Art. He traveled much in mountain countries and was passionately fond of that scenery. Of him, the writer, Eugene Muntz says: "He sees justly, feels profoundly and knows how to express what he feels."

13 Lendemain de Noce.....*Volkhardt*

MAX VOLKHARDT—Was born at Dusseldorf in 1848. A most important genre painter and a pupil of the Dusseldorf Academy under Edwuard Von Gebhart. He studied also in Brussels, Antwerp, Bruges and Ghent. He has painted some famous canvases, including "A Point of Honor," "Audience of Burgomasters," "A Rejected Suitor," and "An Improvised Dinner Party."

14 Fishermen.....*Duecker*

EUGENE DUECKER.—A Russian painter of coast and landscape scene was born at Orensburg in 1841. Benjamin, in his *Modern Art of Europe*, speaks of him as follows: "Duecker is an artist whose tone, touch and resemblance to nature in his canvases place him among the foremost painters of the age in that line."

Duecker is a member of the St. Petersburg and Stockholm Academies, a member of the Royal Society of Water-Color Artists at Brussels, member and professor at the Academy at Dusseldorf, and has won medals at Vienna, Munich and London. He was a pupil of the Academy of St. Petersburg, where he received two silver and two gold medals and the six years' prize money for traveling studies.

At Berlin, in 1876, he exhibited, "The Shore of the Baltic Sea," and in 1868, "A Marsh or Fen," which picture now belongs to the Emperor of Russia.

His works are seen in the public galleries in Russia and England and also in many private collections.

15 Young Shepherds.....*Salentin*

HUBERT SALENTIN.—Born at Zulphich, Rhenish Prussia, Jan. 15th, 1822. Genre and landscape painter, pupil of Dusseldorf Academy under Schadow, Karl Pohn and Tidemand. He paints attractive and characteristic scenes from peasant life in Western Germany. His pictures are hung in many of the great galleries of the world. "Pilgrims at a Chapel" in the National Gallery, Berlin; "Pilgrims at a Mineral Spring," Cologne Museum; "Sunday Afternoon Visit at the Shepherds" and "Messengers of Spring" in the Prague Gallery; "Children Scouring a Kettle" at Stettin Museum, and "Blind Boy" at Besancon Museum.

16 Seamen's Fireside.....*Kirberg*

OTTO KIRBERG.—A German artist born at Elberfeld in 1850. A genre painter, pupil of the Dusseldorf Academy in 1869. After returning from the wars of 1870 and 1871, he visited Holland and has since taken his subjects from the life of Dutch fishermen.

His "Victim of the Sea" is hung in the National Gallery at Berlin.

17 The Old Woman.....*Wagner*

Note—This remarkable picture does not wholly reveal itself until viewed with the aid of a strong magnifying glass, when the flesh seems to pulsate with life and the eyes and lips become wierdly animated.

FERDINAND WAGNER.—Born at Passan, January 25th, 1847. History and genre painter, pupil of Munich Academy and of Graglio; visited Rome and in 1876, Venice. An artist of great imagination and exquisite humor and an excellent colorist. Works: "Children's Ball,"

"Lute Player," "Evening Devotion," "In Fresco," "Tannhauser Scenes," "Five Senses." Cycle of 17 pictures, representing "Influence of Ancient Gods on Ailments," "Hunting Train," "Two Female Figures."

- 18 The Barnyard *Carl Jutz*
19 Pigeons. *M. de la Rosa*
20 The Interrupted Serenade . . . *Lugi Monteverde*
21 Mother's Darling *Oswald Steiger*

